GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1361
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2016
Bilateral Trade between India and Sri Lanka
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a bilateral trade meeting has been recently held between India and Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the issues discussed therein;

(c) whether any progress has been made on the proposed Economic and Technology Co-operation Agreement between the two countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which the said agreement is likely to be signed by the two countries; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to boost the trade between both the countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) & (b): The 4th Commerce Secretary level talks between India and Sri Lanka were held on 21st December 2015 at New Delhi.

Commerce and Industry Minister also hosted a bilateral meeting with Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade of Sri Lanka on 4th July 2016 at New Delhi. In the meeting, both sides discussed several issues related to bilateral trade and investment, inter-alia, including awareness on standards and regulations, market access of products, strengthening compliance to the provisions of Free Trade Agreement with Sri Lanka, etc.

(c)& (d): Both countries are in the process of finalizing the broad framework for the proposed Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement(ETCA) through mutual discussions, towards start of negotiations for an expeditious conclusion of the Agreement.

(e) The Government continues to engage pro-actively with Sri Lanka to address various trade issues and strengthen trade and economic relations. Bilateral trade discussions are also held from time to time to explore mechanisms to boost trade between the two countries.
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